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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/459,108	12/10/1999	THOMAS F. KNIGHT	7828-012-999	9655

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EXAMINER

DUONG, KHANH B

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2822	

DATE MAILED: 05/23/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Frank Morris
650 849 - 7777

Offic Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/459,108	KNIGHT ET AL.
Examiner	Art Unit	
Khanh Duong	2822	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10 December 1999.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 85-87 and 100 is/are pending in the application.
 - 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 85-87 and 100 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.

If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
 - a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
2) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

This Office Action is in response to the Preliminary Amendment filed on December 10, 1999.

Accordingly, claims 1-84, 88-99 and 101-205 are canceled. Currently, claims 85-87 and 100 are pending in the application.

Specification

The abstract of the disclosure is objected to because it is missing from the application. Correction is required. See MPEP § 608.01(b).

The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: page 22, line 26, "Fig. 6" should have been "Figs. 6A-D"; and page 23, Figs. 17A-B are not being described.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 85-87 and 100 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Jacobsen (U.S. 5,673,131).

Jacobsen discloses a method of coupling signals between electronic devices (half-capacitors) in a modular electronic system (see Fig. 9b; col. 7, lines 11-32) comprising the steps of: locating a first subset of electronic devices (half-capacitor) 216 on a first chip; locating a second subset of electronic devices (half-capacitor) 214 on a second chip; and aligning and

affixing the first and second chips so as to capacitively couple the first and second chips; wherein the first and second chips are affixed to a base substrate 210 or 212 thereby capacitively coupling the first and second chips via the substrate. Since the general conditions taught by Jacobsen are the same as those of the claims, it must be inherent that a signal related to the signals applied to the first half-capacitor 216 is received via the second half-capacitor 214.

Claims 85-87 and 100 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Zappe (U.S. 3,983,546).

Zappe discloses a method of coupling signals between electronic devices (half-capacitors) in a modular electronic system (see Fig. 14; col. 12, lines 58-67) comprising the steps of: locating a first subset of electronic devices (half-capacitor) 170A on a first chip 116A; locating a second subset of electronic devices (half-capacitor) 170B on a second chip 116B; and aligning and affixing the first and second chips so as to capacitively couple the first and second chips; wherein the first and second chips are affixed to a base substrate thereby capacitively coupling the first and second chips via the substrate. Zappe also teaches that a signal related to the signals applied to the first half-capacitor 170A is received via the second half-capacitor 170B (see col. 12, lines 58-60).

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Ballmer et al. '535, Howard et al. '655, Jacobsen '882, Moresco et al. '265, Knight et al. '838 disclose relevant methods of capacitively coupling signals between electronic devices.

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Khanh Duong whose telephone number is (703) 305-1784. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday (9:00 AM - 6:00 PM).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Carl Whitehead, Jr. can be reached on (703)308-4940. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703)305-3431 for regular communications and (703)308-7722 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703)308-0956.


KBD
May 19, 2002


CARL WHITEHEAD, JR.
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800